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Letter dated 2 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a letter dated 2 April 1998 from His Excellency Mr. Glafcos Clerides, President of the Republic of Cyprus, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 2 April 1998 from the President of Cyprus to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter dated 19 March 1998, addressed to you by Ambassador Tuluy Tanç, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations, which was circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/52/384-S/1998/255). Annexed to that letter there is a text described by the Turkish Chargé d'affaires as a "letter dated 5 March 1998 from His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" addressed to me, as well as a "summary of the statement made by President Denktaş in connection with the peace initiative of the Turkish Cypriot side for the settlement of the Cyprus issue".

The transmission and circulation by the Turkish Representative of the aforementioned material is an example of how a Member of the United Nations, by abusing a privilege derived from membership, promotes aims and objectives that are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The material in question emanates from a secessionist entity proclaimed as illegal by Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984) as well as by subsequent resolutions. These resolutions, inter alia, "call upon all States not to recognize the purported State of the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' set up by secessionist acts and ... not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity". It should be pointed out that this secessionist entity has been recognized only by Turkey, the country that created and maintains it, through the use of military force and in total disregard for the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Turkey's contempt for international legality is also exemplified by its failure to fulfil its obligations derived from the 1960 Agreements establishing the Republic of Cyprus. Under the Treaty of Guarantee, Turkey, together with Greece and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, recognize and guarantee the independence, territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Cyprus. As a result of the 1974 invasion of Cyprus by Turkey and the continuing occupation of 37 per cent of Cyprus' territory by Turkish troops, Turkey turned from a guarantor Power of Cyprus' independence into an aggressive occupying Power, violating and threatening what in fact it was mandated to protect and respect under the 1960 Agreements.

The title accorded to Mr. Denktash by Turkey and mentioned in the Turkish Chargé d'affaires' letter is consistent with Turkey's policy attempting to legitimize in international forums the illegal secessionist entity, and those purporting to represent it in order to undermine Cyprus' independence. Mr. R. Denktash's one and only representative capacity is that of leader of the Turkish Cypriot community in representing his community in the efforts to reach a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus problem under the auspices of the United Nations and your mission of good offices, as provided for in the pertinent United Nations resolutions. In this respect your statement made in Geneva on 28 March, after your meeting with Mr. Denktash, by which you expressed the United Nations position on this very issue is pertinent and timely.

I do not consider it proper to comment on the contents of a letter I refused to receive for reasons of principle and order. I do however consider it appropriate to make some general observations relating to the Turkish Chargé d'affaires' document in its totality, irrespective of the signatories or authors of its various parts, since it contains the official position of the Turkish Government on the issues raised in it.

There exists one State in Cyprus, the Republic of Cyprus, established under international agreements, with its fundamental rights to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Turkish invasion of Cyprus and the continuing occupation of almost 37 per cent of its territory have in no way affected or could affect the international legal status of the Republic of Cyprus.

As provided in United Nations Security Council resolution 939 (2) of 29 July 1994, reaffirmed ever since, "a Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions in a bicommunal and bizonal federation, and that such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession".

The aforementioned Security Council resolutions are binding on all States, including of course the Republic of Turkey.

The parameters of the solution of the Cyprus problem are clearly and unambiguously defined and set in the Security Council resolutions, which, together with the 1977 and 1979 High-level Agreements, constitute the only basis for any negotiated settlement of the problem.

If the Turkish side sincerely wishes to ally itself with the international community in the efforts to find a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, there is no other way than to respect and adhere to international legality and to what has already been agreed. The Turkish attempt to change the basis of the negotiations, strikes at the heart of the negotiating process with unforeseen consequences not only for Cyprus but for peace and stability in the region. We feel that the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and stability, should reconfirm its commitment to a peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of its own resolutions, and the High-level Agreements and, in this framework, urge the Turkish side to return to the negotiating process.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, like any other Government, has both the right and the duty to ensure the security of its people. As a sovereign and independent State, the Republic of Cyprus takes what steps are needed to protect its territory from further Turkish aggression. The reaction of Turkey to the upgrading of Cyprus' defence capabilities has the sole intention of maintaining the largely imbalanced military status quo on the island, which the Security Council has unequivocally considered unacceptable.

The defensive intentions of my Government, with regard to the S-300 missile system, have been made very clear all along. Cyprus has repeatedly stressed that the system is in no way intended against any country or the Turkish Cypriots.

The undisputed proof of Cyprus' intentions lies in my proposal for the complete demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus made in November 1993, which addresses the security concerns of both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The proposal, if accepted by Turkey, would remove the reason that necessitated the general effort to improve my country's defence capabilities.

The people of Cyprus are looking forward to the future. A future with no foreign troops of occupation, a future with no refugees, a future with no missing persons, a future in a united country where all Cypriots, irrespective of religion or ethnic origin can live and work in peace with dignity, mutual respect and security.

The ideas and ways of yesterday will not lead the people of Cyprus towards the realization of the Cyprus they want to build. Yesterday's ideas and ways are the recipe for new suffering and even for a total catastrophe.

We all should look to the future. And the future of Cyprus lies with the family of the nations of Europe. I take this opportunity to appeal once again to my Turkish Cypriot compatriots to join this noble effort.

(Signed) Glafcos CLERIDES
President of the Republic of Cyprus